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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6939

BILL NUMBER: SB 293

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 3, 2006

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Self-Sufficiency Standard for Employment.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Howard

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires the Department of Workforce Development to: (1) develop a self-sufficiency standard; and (2) distribute the standard to all state agencies that counsel individuals who seek education, training, or employment. It provides that the self-sufficiency standard may not be used to: (1) analyze the success or failure of a program; or (2) determine eligibility or benefits for any state or federal public assistance program. The bill makes conforming amendments.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill requires the Department of Workforce Development to develop a self-sufficiency standard by December 1, 2006, by using staff or a consultant. The standard is a calculation of the income required to meet the needs of a family for at least housing, food, dependent care, transportation, and medical costs. The standard should take into account geographical variations in cost, ages and number of children in a family, and any state or federal assistance benefits received by a family.

By March 1, 2007, the Department is to distribute the standard to all state agencies that counsel individuals seeking education, training, or employment.

The additional expense would depend on the cost of the study and if it was done with department staff or consultants. The cost of the study could range from \$10,000 to about \$100,000.

The funds and resources required above could be supplied through a variety of sources, including the following: (1) existing staff and resources not currently being used to capacity; (2) existing staff and resources currently

being used in another program; (3) authorized, but vacant, staff positions, including those positions that would need to be reclassified; (4) funds that, otherwise, would be reverted; or (5) new appropriations. Ultimately, the source of funds and resources required to satisfy the requirements of this bill will depend upon legislative and administrative actions.

As of January 2, 2005, the Department of Workforce Development had 179 vacant positions valued at \$5,015,374. Of the vacant 179 positions, 29 had been vacant for over two years. The Department reverted \$1,011,966 to the state General Fund on June 30, 2005.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures:

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: Department of Workforce Development.

Local Agencies Affected:

Information Sources: Department of Personnel database, Budget Agency's *FY 2005 Reversion Listing All Funds*.

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